

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 NEA-07 SIL-01 LAB-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 COME-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02

SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-04 /047 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6633

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2847

LIMDIS

IO FOR PALMER

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

PASS LABOR FOR SAMUELS, HOROWITZ, QUACKENBUSH, AVERY AND

LINSENMYER

PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB, IS

SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL PROBES U.S. STRATEGY FOR INTER-
NATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 086137 (B) GENEVA 2793

1. SUMMARY: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD PROBED
TO SEE WHAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE TO COMPROMISE ON ISSUES
COMING UP AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

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IN JUNE, INCLUDING A COMPROMISE ON U.S. PROPOSAL FOR
AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17. WE REPLIED ALONG LINES OF
REF A (SEE PARAS TWO AND THREE BELOW). BLANCHARD ALSO
REPEATED HIS REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH SECRETARY
VANCE (PARA FOUR BELOW) AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG (SEPTTEL).
END SUMMARY.

2. AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CHARGE, BLANCHARD'S ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING (ALMM) IN TRIPOLI AND THE ILC WAS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT REPORTED IN REF B. BLANCHARD STILL FEELS THAT ARABS WILL MAKE A LOT OF NOISE BUT WILL NOT FORCE AN ILLEGAL ACT (SUCH AS THE REOPENING OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION OR A NEW RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION AGAINST ISRAEL) WHICH WOULD HURT THE ILO OR TRIGGER U.S. DEPARTURE. ON ARTICLE 17, WE SAID SOMEONE (UNNAMED) HAD PROPOSED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL COULD BE ACCEPTED "AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME", MEANING A TIME IN THE FUTURE WHEN OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE ALSO SETTLED. WE TOLD HIM WE COULD REJECT THIS OUT OF HAND, THAT THE U.S. WANTED A YES-NO ANSWER ON ARTICLE 17 THIS JUNE, AND WE WOULD CONSIDER DELAY AS A NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

3. OVER COFFEE, BLANCHARD ASKED WHETHER WE COULD GIVE HIM SOME IDEA OF HOW THE U.S. WOULD APPROACH THE ISSUES AT THE ILC. AT FIRST, WE MISTOOK HIS QUESTION BUT HE INTERRUPTED AND SAID HE WAS REFERRING TO U.S. STRATEGY AT THE ILC. WE SAID THE QUESTION WAS DELICATE BECAUSE THE CLC WOULD MEET IN EARLY MAY TO CONSIDER OUR STRATEGY, BUT IN OUR JUDGMENT THE U.S. WAS TAKING CLEAR STANDS ON THE ISSUES AND HOPED FOR CLEAR REPLIES. WE DID NOT PREFER THAT DECISIONS BE POSTPONED OR AVOIDED. WE REITERATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD REGARD AS NEGATIVE ANY DECISION TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL ON ARTICLE 17 "AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME". BLANCHARD EMPHASIZED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAD NOT MADE THIS SUGGESTION BUT HAD HEARD IT ELSEWHERE. WE SAID THE U.S. WAS NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION FOR ITS OWN SAKE BUT THAT WE CANNOT MAKE A POSITIVE DECISION IF THE ISSUES ARE NOT FACED SQUARELY AT THE ILC. THEREFORE, WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN A PREARRANGED SCENARIO OR "PACKAGE DEAL" AT THE ILC.

4. DURING LUNCH, BLANCHARD REPEATED HIS DESIRE TO SEE SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON. WE SAID WE WERE NOT PRIVY TO VANCE'S SCHEDULE BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT VANCE WOULD SEE HIM IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE. IF NOT POSSIBLE, WE HOPED THAT UNDERSECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH BLANCHARD. BLANCHARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD VISIT GENEVA BRIEFLY NEXT MONTH BUT DID NOT REQUEST TO SEE THE PRESIDENT HERE OR REPEAT HIS PREVIOUS REQUEST TO SEE THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON. BLANCHARD DID ASK AGAIN TO SEE AMBASSADOR YOUNG. WE ARE REPORTING THIS SEPTTEL. SORENSON

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